

Message Text

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16

ACTION ORM-02

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 IO-13 ISO-00 DHA-02 VO-03 SCA-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INSE-00 AID-05 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /034 W

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O P 200952Z JUL 76

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1293

INFO AMEMBASSY RANGOON PRIORITY

USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF

SUBJECT: INDOCHINESE REFUGEES: BOAT CASES: MV AVA - SITREP

REF: A) HONG KONG 8399 B) HONG KONG 8394 NOTAL

1. THE BURMESE M.V. AVA IS STILL LYING ABOUT 20 MILES
OFF HONG KONG WITH 96 VIETNAMESE REFUGEES ABOARD. (AN INJURED
WOMAN AND A MOTHER AND HER NEWBORN CHILD HAVE BEEN REMOVED
TO A HOSPITAL IN HONG KONG.) HK IMMIGRATION EXPECTS THAT THE
SHIP WILL REENTER THE PORT IN ABOUT 48 HOURS FOR PROVISIONING
AND TO RECEIVE THE INJURED WOMAN. THE CHILD IS EXPECTED TO
REMAIN IN HOSPITAL UNTIL IT WEIGHS AT LEAST FIVE POUNDS.
PRESUMABLY THE MOTHER WILL REMAIN WITH IT.

2. THE BURMESE CONSUL GENERAL HAS SPOKEN WITH DIRECTOR OF
IMMIGRATION AGAIN AND IS QUOTED AS SAYING THAT HE IS STILL
WAITING FOR UNHCR TO ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE REFUGEES

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AND FOR THE US CONGEN TO TAKE THE REFUGEES ELIGIBLE UNDER

THE US PROGRAM.

3. WE ARE OF THE OPINION THAT WE MUST SHOW SOME FORWARD MOVE-MENT IN OUR PROCESSING OF THE REFUGEES AND THEREFORE REQUEST THAT WE BE INFORMED SOONEST WHEN PROCESSING HAS BEEN COMPLETED ON ANY OF THE REFUGEES ON THE AVA (REF A).

4. CONVERSATION WITH POLITICAL ADVISER INDICATES THAT HKG WOULD PROBABLY BE WILLING TO LET THE REFUGEES GAIN ENTRY TO HK IF WE COULD GIVE THEM A REASONABLE ASSURANCE THAT IF UNHCR WAS UNABLE TO RESETTLE THEM ELSEWHERE THE USG WOULD BE ABLE TO ACCEPT THEM UNDER THE P-7 PROGRAM. THE HKG IS AWARE THAT THE 39 (SEE REF A) ARE BEING PROCESSED AND THAT WE EXPECT TO BE ABLE TO HANDLE THEM EXPEDITIOUSLY.

5. ON BASIS INS/CP CABLE 3282 DTD JULY 19, 1976, INS/HK IS ASKING INS/CO TO RESERVE 60 P-7 NUMBERS FOR THE REFUGEES ABOARD THE AVA WHO DO NOT APPEAR TO BE ELIGIBLE UNDER EPP. WHEN IT HAS BEEN CONFIRMED THAT THESE ARE RESERVED FOR US WE PLAN TO GO TO THE HKG AND PROPOSE THAT THEY ADMIT THE REFUGEES UNDER THE TERMS OUTLINED ABOVE.

6. TO FACILITATE THIS, DEPARTMENT IS REQUESTED TO URGE THE VOLAGS TO AUTHORIZE THEIR HK REPRESENTATIVES TO SIGN INS FORM I-591. THIS FORM, WHICH IS ESSENTIALLY AN AFFIDAVIT OF SUPPORT, IS REQUIRED FOR P-7 APPLICANTS. TODAY WE HAVE SPOKEN WITH MR. LOUIS WEISNER OF THE IRC RE THE AFFIDAVITS OF SUPPORT AND HE IS SURE THAT THE VOLAGS WILL BE WILLING TO GIVE THIS ASSURANCE OF FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO THE REFUGEES.

CROSS

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